

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION

**VanNess**  
Communications

2012 JAN -3 PM 2: 58

December 28, 2011

OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20463

Re: **MUR 6510**

Dear Sirs:

Below please find my response to MUR 6510, a complaint filed by Senator Kirk's ex-wife.

I have served as a public relations and political consultant for over 25 years, including work for Fleishman-Hillard, Susan Davis International, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and my own firms: Van Ness Communications and Arcadian Partners. My clients have included Pepsi-Cola, Anheuser-Busch, Ralston-Purina, HealthNet, Schick, National Guard Youth Foundation, National Federation of the Blind, Convergys, Medal of Honor Foundation, Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial Foundation, and the March of Dimes.

I worked on Congressman Kirk's first campaign in 1999-2000, ran his district office/communications and worked on his 2010 Senate campaign. Throughout the Senate campaign, I lived at :  
Arlington, Virginia, working on site as needed at The Patterson Group and the campaign in Illinois.

Rob Vail worked with Kirk congressional campaigns in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and the 2010 Senate campaign. Due to the size of the Senate campaign, I worked as a sub-contractor for Rob Vail's company, The Patterson Group, in connection with the Kirk for Senate campaign.

During my service for The Patterson Group, I prepared strategic and crisis communications plans, provided branding and marketing counsel, including message development, media planning, placement and scheduling, and rapid response advice among other assignments. I worked across TV, radio, print and internet platforms. I recruited key members of the campaign's strategic communications team. As a member of the team I helped to build, I participated in their daily strategy call and nearly all key team meetings, working well in excess of a 40-hour workweek, many times seven days a week. For this work, I was paid by The Patterson Group a monthly retainer of \$10,000 (with the exception of August - October 2009 when the retainer fees were less) with reimbursements for agreed to expenses related to campaign travel and other activities.

According to our records, the Kirk for Senate campaign paid The Patterson Group \$1,853,382.10 from October 2009 to August of 2010 for radio, TV media expenditures, production, and related services. The Patterson Group paid my company, Van Ness Communications, consulting fees and expenses totaling \$143,682.32 for 2009-2010:

	Expenses Invoiced to Patterson Group	Consulting Fees Invoiced to Patterson Group
16 August 2009	1,914.34	2,500
26 September 2009	3,807.01	2,500
26 October 2009	1,030.26	5,000
25 November 2009	2,569.50	10,000
13 December 2009	4,161.29	10,000
11 January 2010	1,438.16	10,000

# VanNess Communications

13 February 2010	--	10,000
2 March 2010	4,937.17	10,000
1 April 2010	2,634.55	10,000
3 May 2010	1,160.37	10,000
1 June 2010	--	10,000
1 July 2010	6,392.67	10,000
30 July	3,537.00	--
10 August 2010		10,000
<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>33,582.32</b>	<b>110,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>143,582.32</b>


Even though I do not think it is required to be disclosed, I wanted to provide you with this information.

I appreciate this opportunity to respond and look forward to providing any further details you might require.

Very truly yours,



Dorothy McCracken  
Van Ness Communications



13044341719